



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
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Boston, MA 02114

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GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

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<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

June, 2006

Re: Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Office of Public Private Partnerships (OPPP)
FY '07 "Fix-it-First" Friends Matching Funds Program

Dear Past, Present and Prospective Partners:

Over the past three years, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has successfully pursued new models of stewardship for the parks, open spaces and facilities held in trust by EOEA for the citizens of the Commonwealth. I am pleased to announce my continuation of the cornerstone of this new stewardship model: the Office of Public Private Partnerships (OPPP) matching funds program for fiscal year 2007.

Since 2004, OPPP has provided more than \$1.9 million leveraging matches of more than \$2.4 million in private and other non-state investments by more than 41 partners in 67 capital projects on 36 facilities managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. These "Fix-it-First" projects ranged in dollar amount from \$250 to \$1.7 million and included installation of new interpretive signs, major field improvements and significant building renovations among others.

As we commence the third year of the program, we continue to strive to improve on the already remarkable successes we have had. We are accelerating the timeline of the project approvals in an effort to begin, and therefore complete, projects sooner and to allow us to take on projects of a larger scale. We will consider applications for projects that may require more than one year to plan and complete. Finally, we hope that the enclosed answers to frequently asked questions will clarify for partners the criteria, application process, and project management of the matching funds program.

The fundamental operation of the matching funds program remains the same this coming year. OPPP may provide an equal match to non-state funds for capital projects on state land. Only monetary contributions (not in-kind) will be matched, and the funds must be deposited with the state's environmental agency. Project management will be provided by the state in close consultation with the partner(s) providing funds. See the enclosed frequently asked questions for more details.

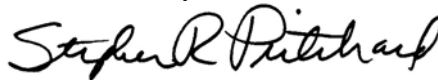
We have found that the most successful projects executed in the first two years of the matching funds program are those of shared priority to all partners. I encourage you to contact a representative of the EOEA constituent agency with whom you wish to partner at your earliest convenience to discuss project ideas. Before you submit your application you should have had a chance to review your project ideas with agency staff, increasing the likelihood that the application you then submit will be supported by the agency and approved by OPPP.

The environmental assets of the Commonwealth are vast and precious. Their protection, enhancement, restoration and maintenance require a shared effort between those who manage them and those who enjoy and benefit from them. We have made tremendous progress thanks in large part to the assistance of many of you, but much more remains to be done. We welcome the opportunity to partner with you in this essential work.

I encourage you to contact Betsy Shure Gross, OPPP's Executive Director, at (617) 626-1117 or betsy.shuregross@state.ma.us or Ethel Woodard at (617) 626-4917 or ethel.woodard@state.ma.us for further information. If you are interested in discussing specific matching funds project ideas with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, contact Margie Lynch, DCR Partnership Director at 617-626-1315 or margie.lynch@state.ma.us. Please visit OPPP's website at www.mass.gov/envir/opp to view a list and photographs of previous projects.

I look forward to working with you to improve and sustain our resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen R. Pritchard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Pritchard" clearly legible.

Stephen R. Pritchard
Secretary

Enclosures